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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 30 and add new claims 35 and 36, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows, which will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Previously Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein the end portion of said catalytic converter shell is fixedly cast in place within said manifold wall such that said catalytic converter shell is locked into position within said manifold wall to form a gas tight seal therebetween.

25. (Previously Presented) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said manifold wall comprises a manifold wall thickness greater than a catalytic converter shell thickness of said catalytic converter shell.

26. (Previously Presented) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 25, wherein said manifold wall thickness is 3 mm to 4 mm, and said catalytic converter shell thickness is 1mm to 2 mm.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said end portion of said catalytic converter shell comprises a retention feature selected from the group consisting of bumps, flares, grooves, and any combination comprising at least one of the foregoing.

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29. (Previously Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said manifold comprises cast iron and said catalytic converter shell comprises stainless steel.

30. (Currently Amended) A catalytic converter subassembly comprising:

~~an a cast exhaust manifold formed as a single casting comprising defining a collector body manifold wall including a thickened section defining an outlet port;~~

~~at least one recess formed in said wall substantially concentrically circumscribing said outlet port;~~

~~a catalytic converter shell, wherein having an end portion of said catalytic converter shell is thereof cast in place within the thickened section of said manifold wall circumscribing each outlet port to effect a sealed interconnection therebetween;~~

a catalyst substrate disposed in said catalytic converter shell;

a mat support material disposed between said catalytic converter shell and said catalyst substrate; and

~~a mat protection ring disposed substantially concentrically within said shell and including opposed first and second ends, wherein said first end of said mat protection ring is cast in place within the thickened section of said manifold wall circumferentially intermediate adjacent the end portion of the catalytic converter shell and said outlet port, and the second end of said mat protection ring penetrating at least a portion of said mat support material.~~

wherein said collector body manifold wall, catalytic converter shell and mat protection ring define cooperating integral retention features operative to affix the end portion of the catalytic converter shell and the first end of the mat protection ring within the cast collector body manifold wall.

31 - 34. (Canceled)

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35. (New) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said exhaust manifold is constructed of cast iron and said catalytic converter shell is constructed of stainless steel.

36. (New) A catalytic converter subassembly comprising:
a cast iron exhaust manifold defining an integral collector body manifold wall;
a stainless steel catalytic converter shell having an end portion thereof cast in place within said manifold wall to effect a sealed interconnection therebetween;
a catalyst substrate disposed in said catalytic converted shell; and
a mat support material disposed between said catalytic converter shell and said catalyst substrate,
wherein said collector body manifold wall and catalytic converter shell define cooperating integral retention features operative to interlock the end portion of the catalytic converter shell within the cast manifold collector body.